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B1

transparent, the housing having at least one substantially transparent viewing area, the housing being capable of being formed as a single monolithic unit, the display element being arranged adjacent to the viewing area.

Please add the following new Claims 11-16

A2

11. (New) A method for forming a housing for a thermometer comprising the steps of:

providing a single monolithic preform for a housing made of a transparent material;

treating at least one of an outer surface and an inner surface of the preform such that at least a portion of the surface is non-transparent; and

creating a substantially transparent viewing area on the preform to form the housing.

12. (New) The method as defined in Claim 11, wherein the preform is treated during molding of the preform in a mold.

13. (New) The method as defined in Claim 11, wherein the preform is treated after molding of the preform in a mold by a subsequent mechanical process.

14. (New) The method as defined in Claim 11, wherein the preform is treated after molding of the preform in a mold by a subsequent chemical process.

15. (New) The method as defined in Claim 11, wherein the substantially transparent viewing area is created by omitting an area of the preform from treating.

16. (New) The method as defined in Claim 11, wherein the entire preform is treated and wherein the substantially transparent viewing area is created by subsequent polishing.

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